

XXXV.—Description of a new Bird from Africa.

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(Plate X.)

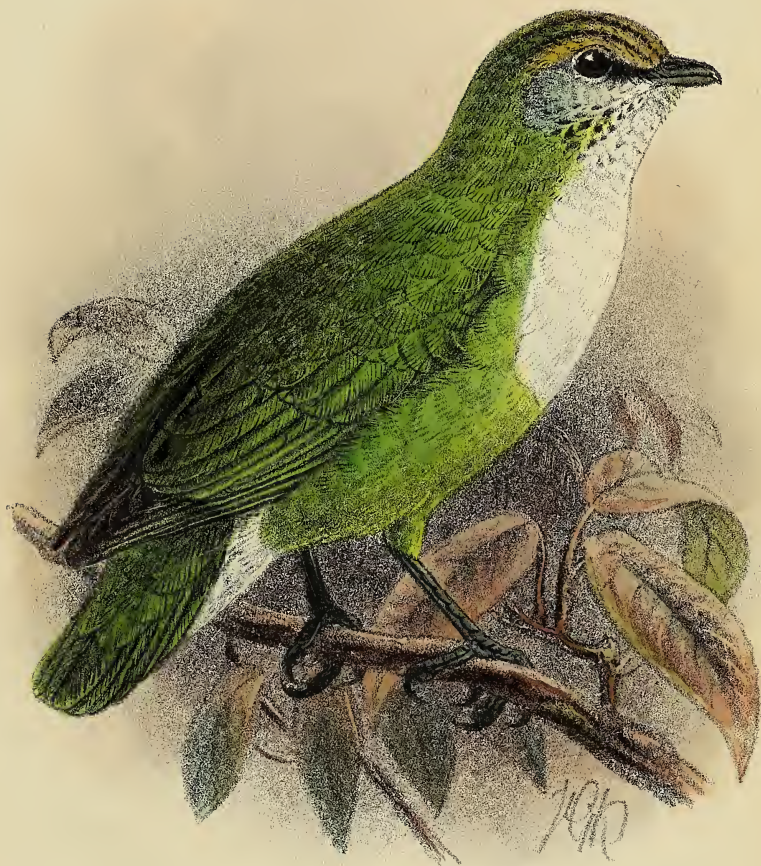
PSEUDOCALYPTOMENA, gen. nov.

† Bill apparently hard, very wide, like that of a *Serilophus* (family Eurylæmidæ), but more pointed, slightly hooked and with a deep notch before the tip. Nostrils bare of feathers and with a distinct operculum. Only a few thin and short bristles below the lores. Wing with ten primaries; third and fourth equal and longest, fifth very little shorter, first, in length, between the sixth and seventh. Second to fifth distinctly emarginated for about 25 mm. from the tip. Longest secondaries about 15 mm. shorter than longest primaries. Tail rounded, slightly longer than half the wing. Number of rectrices 12. Tarsus scutellated in front.

The position of this remarkable bird is uncertain; it is apparently a very aberrant Flycatcher, in spite of its fully developed first primary, but at the first glance somewhat resembles a *Calypomena* (Eurylæmidæ) on account of the shape of its bill, its short tail, and its green and blue colour, a combination of characters which is quite unique among African Passeres.

† PSEUDOCALYPTOMENA GRAUERI, sp. n.

♂. Forehead to beyond the eyes greenish buff, each feather with a wide median brown streak; occiput and rest of upper surface, including the upper wing-coverts, bright grass-green. Remiges brownish black, edged with the colour of the back. Two central rectrices green, darker than the back, other rectrices with the outer webs like the two central ones, inner webs brownish black. Lores dull black. Throat and chest verditer-blue, cheeks with blackish spots, chin whitish with a creamy tinge, rest of under side apple-green; under tail-coverts verditer-blue; under wing-coverts whitish



West, Newman imp.

PSEUDOCALYPTOMENA GRAUERI, ♂.

green, inner edges of remiges pale fuscous. "Iris grey." Bill and feet black (in skin). Wing 75, culmen 10, tail 39, tarsus 19 mm.

The single specimen was obtained fifty miles west of Russisi, north of Lake Tanganyika, in November 1908, by Mr. Rudolf Grauer. It was found in bamboo-forest, about 2000 m. above the sea.

Type: No. 3956, in the Tring Museum, Grauer Collection.

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XXXVI.—*The Report on the British Museum for 1908.*

THE Annual Report on the British Museum for 1908, presented to Parliament by the Trustees, contains much interesting information concerning the National Collection of Birds at South Kensington, from which we extract the following passages:—

The Birds in the British Saloon have been re-arranged, and the old and faded specimens have been almost entirely replaced by new examples. One hundred and fifty-nine of these have been beautifully mounted and generously presented by Mr. Rowland Ward. Cases containing specimens of the Coal-Tit and Buffon's Skua have been added.

Some valuable additions have been made to the collection of skeletons and of birds in spirit; and among these, special mention may be made of the gifts of Birds-of-Paradise from Sir William Ingram, and of nestling Pelicans from Captain Stanley Flower, Director of the Zoological Gardens, Cairo.

The arrangement of the Passerine skeletons is now completed. Much curatorial work has been done to keep these collections in order, but the specimens in spirit are almost inaccessible owing to the want of suitable storage; while in regard to the skeleton-collection a very large number of old skeletons need to be replaced by new and properly prepared specimens.

A series of preparations illustrating the Classification of